three days prior to final passage by the National Assembly.

It is current rumor that because so many bills were rushed through the legislative mill on the last day of the session, some of them were doctored subsequent to the *sine die* session of the Legislature. The finger of guilt pointed most often to the public works bill and the pork barrel items in it. Oft denied by legislative leaders, veteran reporters vouch for the truthfulness of the charge, that bills were rewritten after the Legislature had adjourned or, to touch on the point more lightly, that "mistakes" were found and "corrected." What is certain is that days intervened before a bill reached the Bureau of Printing and before even those most vitally concerned were able to secure copies of it.

Pork barrel was an apparently unavoidable evil. The political life of the legislator depended on reelection, and reelection depended on securing public improvements for his district. So it came to be the custom for a lump sum to be allotted each member, more for a Senator than for a Representative, and much more for an adherent of the majority party than for an unfortunate adherent of the minority. The member subdivided his allotment among as many projects as possible, mostly school-houses. A public works bill commonly supposed to constitute dry reading in this respect makes interesting reading. At random take Act No. 4180, the Public Works Act for 1935. The leaf opens at Bohol, and for that Province eighty-seven items from 200 pesos, the lowest, to 8,000 pesos, the highest, are noted. Some, maybe all, of

these projects would be beneficial to the public. But they could not be realized because for certain ones the appropriation was insufficient and for others not imperative, and because the government coffers simply did not contain the money for them. The Secretary of Public Works and Communications stood firm against the practice, and at last, with the cooperation of the Governor-General and President Quezon, the Secretary was able to pretty well put a stop to it.